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Building Success 101

Q: How does an "overflow" bathtub work?

A: These soaking tubs facilitate complete relaxation and enjoyment for the bather. They are designed with a perimeter channel that allows water to flow over the edge of the bathing/soaking area and drain out. This trough is subtle and unobtrusive, but its effect is tremendous. The bather can completely submerge into the water without fear of spilling water all over the bathroom floor. Some designs enhance the experience with gentle bubbles and soft lights under the water. The trough also acts as an insulator to better maintain the desired temperature of the water.

A Welcome Retreat

As life gets busier and stress levels increase, more and more people are turning to their homes as a place of refuge and escape.

As a professional builder, we've seen an increasing interest in the transformation of the master bedroom into an "owners' suite"; a true, in-home retreat area. This trend has evolved from a simple "bigger is better" approach to a more sophisticated variety of features that go far beyond square footage. Owners' suite retreats have been redefined as spa-like experiences to create a relaxing and revitalizing environment.

One characteristic of the new owners' suite is a built-in separation between the increasing number of functional spaces. The sleeping area, for example, is just that. It may even be tucked away from direct daylight to maintain a serene environment. Television, reading, and conversation areas, adjacent but separate from the sleeping quarters, might also feature a mini-kitchen for early-morning coffee, light snacks, or after-hours refreshments. Some owners' suites may include a separate exercise/massage area, small-scaled but exclusive laundry equipment, and perhaps a private balcony or deck to enjoy a peaceful view.

Similarly, the new master bathroom is segmented by both function and, in some cases, gender. A closet space, changing area or vestibule often provides a buffer between bedroom and the actual bathroom functions. An early-rising spouse can use the shower, bathtub, sink, and toilet without disturbing the other person's sleep.

Where space permits, owners may even be interested in separate, his-and-her master bathroom spaces. Though usually sharing one tub or shower setup, each may prefer his and her private toilet, sink and vanity, and perhaps closet space to eliminate any "competition" for those functions.

In addition to the separation of spaces and functions within these owners' suites, we've also observed a significant increase in products that serve those areas.

Closet organizing systems, for instance, are in great demand. A variety of components allow homeowners to create custom closet spaces for their particular needs. Shoe racks, drawers, cabinets, and closet rods combine to make much more efficient use of the space with the ability to change configuration as needs change.



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To complete a luxury "spa" suite, homeowners may choose from products that create steam showers, gently warm the floor tile on chilly mornings, provide massage-like shower experiences, and deliver soothing effervescent bubbles within an overflow soaking bathtub.

As life's pressures mount, owners' suites have become an attractive alternative to the infrequent resort vacation. Owners' suites create a refuge that can be enjoyed every day.

Warm regards,

Brian

Brian Gentry
President



Landed Gentry Homes & Communities

504 E. Fairhaven Ave, Burlington, WA 98233

(360) 755.9021 – office (360) 755.9029 – fax

info@landedgentry.com

www.landedgentry.com

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